

# Democratic People's Republic of Korea

## reading guide

This document exists as a guide to help people learn more about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This document will be updated with new information as time goes on.

Prepared by Comrade J - message me at [my page](#) with feedback, content or articles to be included, constructive criticism etc.

Dedicated to my friends and comrades in [Proletarians for full Communism](#)

My 130+ page Anti-Communist Myths Debunked doc

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gxwhh-vdeB--47HM-20cEVRC9eAMhrapbNf0Sk8VSOs/edit?usp=sharing>

[Timeline of Events in Korea since 1897 with many sources and reading lists \[WIP\]](#)

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[The Propaganda War](#)

[Human Rights](#)

[Debunking the dominant narrative](#)

[Assorted Anti-DPRK propaganda](#)

[Eyewitness accounts and travel logs](#)

[Life inside Korea](#)

[Defectors](#)

[The food situation in DPRK](#)

[The Food Situation In North Korea \(and other dprk myths\)](#)

[The Economy](#)

[Sanctions](#)

[Is the DPRK on the verge of collapse?](#)

[DPRK Society](#)

[Korean democracy](#)

[DPRK healthcare, education etc.](#)

[Juche](#)

[Is DPR Korea socialist?](#)

[What is life like in South Korea?](#)

[Recommended books](#)

[DPRK related films](#)

## Understanding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

# The Korean War



- Why they hate us

<https://jacobinmag.com/2017/11/korean-war-united-states-nuclear-weapons>

- The invasion of North Korea: an extract from *Churchill and the Bomb* by Ernie Trory.

<http://www.newworker.org/ncptrory/nkorea.htm>

- How South Korea started the Korean War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX2r-m4qLZA&t=1s>

- South Korea started the Korean war with US and UK help - British Foreign Policy since 1870, by Will Podmore

[Google books link to section on Korean War](#)

- The Origins of the Korean War: an interpretation from the Soviet archives - Evgueni Bajanov

[http://www.alternativeinsight.com/Korean\\_War.html](http://www.alternativeinsight.com/Korean_War.html)

- What war with North Korea looked like in the 1950s and why it matters now

<http://www.newsweek.com/us-forget-korean-war-led-crisis-north-592630>

- Americans have forgotten what we did to North Korea - Vox

<https://www.vox.com/2015/8/3/9089913/north-korea-us-war-crime>

- Crimes, Concealment and South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission

[https://web.archive.org/web/20081007071649/http://www.japanfocus.org/Khiem\\_Kim\\_Sung\\_soo-Crimes\\_Concealment\\_and\\_South\\_Korea\\_s\\_Truth\\_and\\_Reconciliation\\_Commission](https://web.archive.org/web/20081007071649/http://www.japanfocus.org/Khiem_Kim_Sung_soo-Crimes_Concealment_and_South_Korea_s_Truth_and_Reconciliation_Commission)

- People's Armies: how small states under threat manage to maintain large military forces  
<https://www.facebook.com/MilitaryWatch.Analysis/posts/1847834395536589>
- National liberation and the DPRK  
<http://writetorebel.com/2017/03/29/national-liberation-and-the-dprk/>
- Review of book detailing US germ warfare in Korea  
<https://shadowproof.com/2015/03/30/book-review-this-must-be-the-place-how-the-u-s-waged-germ-warfare-in-korean-war-denied-it-ever-since/>
- A lost document from the Cold War: the International Scientific Commission report on bacterial warfare during the Korean War  
<https://shadowproof.com/2015/01/25/a-lost-document-from-the-cold-war-the-international-scientific-commission-report-on-bacterial-warfare-during-the-korean-war/>
- CIA document suggests US lied about biological, chemical weapons use in the Korean War  
<https://shadowproof.com/2013/12/10/cia-document-suggests-u-s-lied-about-biological-chemical-weapon-use-in-the-korean-war/>
- No Gun Ri massacre  
[https://www.facebook.com/telesurenglish/videos/1079553265521408/?hc\\_location=ufi](https://www.facebook.com/telesurenglish/videos/1079553265521408/?hc_location=ufi)
- Expert exposes US biological warfare during Korean War  
<https://www.telesur.tv/english/opinion/Expert-Exposes-US-Biological-Warfare-During-Korean-War-20171005-0006.html>
- Suppressed report on 1952 US Korean War Anthrax attack  
<https://valtinsblog.blogspot.co.uk/2017/04/revealed-suppressed-report-on-1952-us.html#.WelhWVWnGUk>
- South Korea owns up to brutal past  
<http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/south-korea-owns-up-to-brutal-past/2008/11/14/1226318928410.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap1>
- Truth Commission reveals history of Korean War: U.S.-South Korea carried out massacres of civilians  
<http://iacenter.org/korea/skorea070608/>
- America's big lie about bioweapon crimes in Korea by Jeff. J Brown  
<https://soundcloud.com/44-days/americas-big-lie-about-bioweapon-crimes-in-korea-tom-powell-on-china-rising-radio-sinoland-170729>
- Letters written by James Cannon, National Secretary of the Trotskyite organisation SWP to president Truman and the US congress  
<http://www.themilitant.com/2017/8117/811750.html>
- Biological warfare in the Korean War: Allegations and Cover-up: Socialism and Democracy Vol 31, no. 1.  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08854300.2016.1265859>
- Report of the International Scientific Commission For The Investigation of Facts Concerning Bacterial Warfare in Korea and China  
<https://cryptome.org/2015/01/isc-biowar-kr-cn.pdf>
- The Bombing of North Korea - death toll  
[https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Bombing\\_of\\_North\\_Korea\\_1950-1953#Death\\_Toll](https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Bombing_of_North_Korea_1950-1953#Death_Toll)

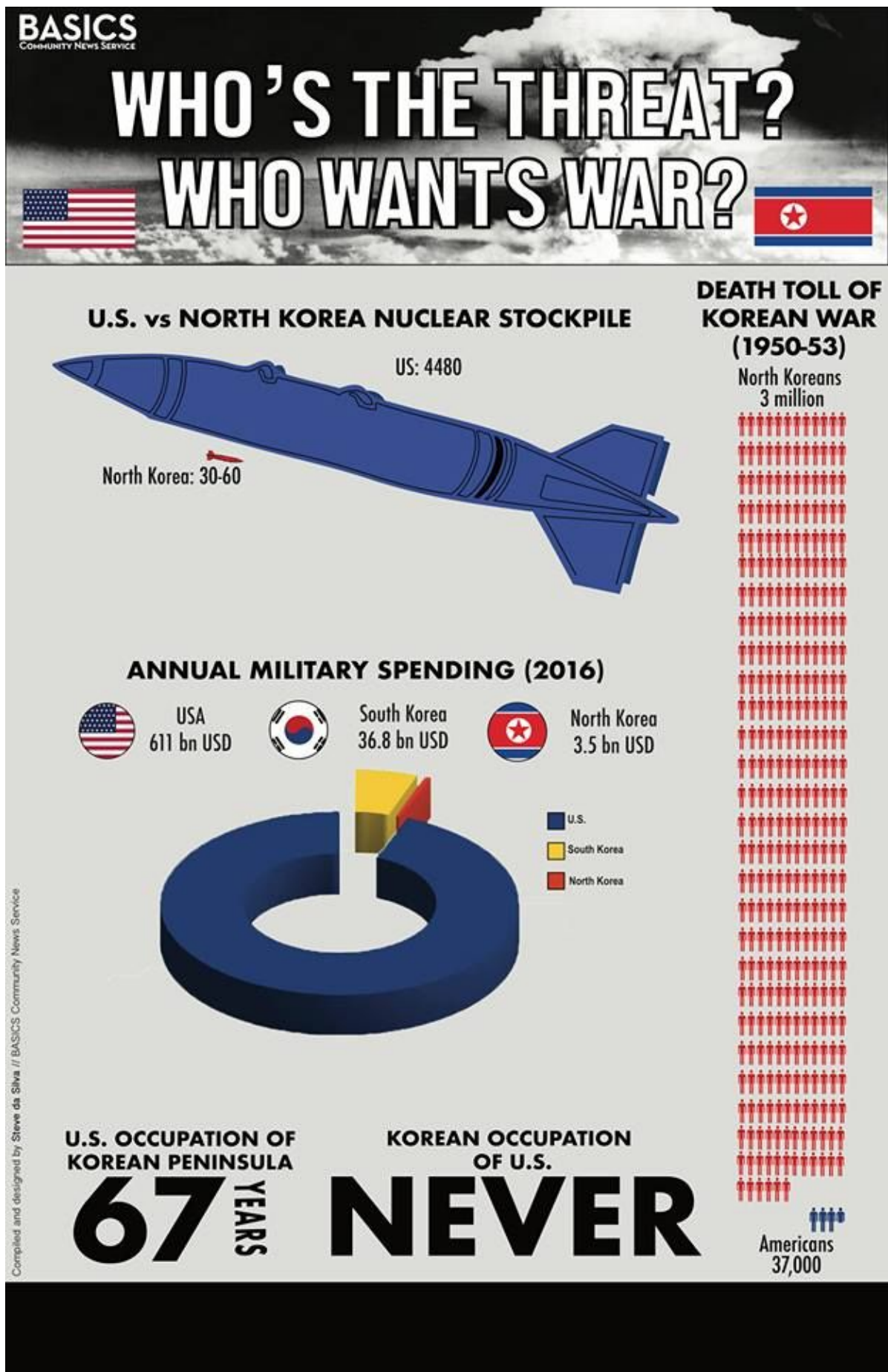
On 13 May 1953 twenty USAF F-84 fighter-bombers swooped down in three successive waves over Toksan irrigation dam in North Korea. From an altitude of 300 feet they skip-bombed their loads of high explosives into the hard-packed earthen walls of the dam. The subsequent flash flood scooped clean 27 miles of valley below, and the plunging flood waters wiped out large segments of a main north-south communication and supply route to the front lines. The Toksan strike and similar attacks on the Chasan, Kuwonga, Kusong, and Toksang dams accounted for five of the more than twenty irrigation dams targeted for possible attack—dams up-stream from all the important enemy supply routes and furnishing 75 percent of the controlled water supply for North Korea's rice production. These strikes, largely passed over by the press, the military observers, and news commentators in favor of attention-arresting but less meaningful operations events, constituted one of the most significant air operations of the Korean war. They sent the Communist military leaders and political commissars scurrying to their press and radio centers to blare to the world the most severe, hate-filled harangues to come from the Communist propaganda mill in the three years of warfare.

In striking one target system, the USAF had hit hard at two sensitive links in the enemy's armor—his capability to supply his front-line troops and his capability to produce food for his armies. To the U.N. Command the breaking of the irrigation dams meant disruption of the enemy's lines of communication and supply. But to the Communists the smashing of the dams meant primarily the destruction of their chief sustenance—rice. The Westerner can little conceive the awesome meaning

which the loss of this staple food commodity has for the Asian—starvation and slow death. "Rice famine," for centuries the chronic scourge of the Orient, is more feared than the deadliest plague. Hence the show of rage, the flare of violent tempers, and the avowed threats of reprisals when bombs fell on five irrigation dams.<sup>58</sup>



Aggression towards the People's Republic and building the case for war



- What the West's missile strike on Syria means for North Korea  
[http://militarywatchmagazine.com/read.php?my\\_data=70519](http://militarywatchmagazine.com/read.php?my_data=70519)
- US and North Korea: nuclear threat returns  
<http://www.revolutionarycommunist.org/americas/united-states/4985-uan021117>
- Empire Files: War with North Korea - propaganda vs reality (excellent video)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDJINQIRbIA>
- Media complicity increases the possibility of a new Korean war  
<https://mronline.org/2017/12/05/media-complicity-increases-the-possibility-of-a-new-korean-war/>
- Imperialism's drive to war in Korea  
<https://redyouth.org/2017/04/21/imperialisms-drive-to-war-in-korea/>
- John McCain threatens North Korea with "extinction"  
<http://www.mintpressnews.com/john-mccain-threatens-north-korea-with-extinction/231943/>
- What is the US military's presence near North Korea?  
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/aug/09/what-is-the-us-militarys-presence-in-south-east-asia>
- Tillerson talks of pre-emptive strikes on NKorea citing weapons of mass destruction  
<http://www.mintpressnews.com/tillerson-talks-of-pre-emptive-strikes-on-nkorea-citing-weapons-of-mass-destruction/226009/>
- U.S. aggression heightens tensions in Korea as Park government overthrown  
<https://www.liberationnews.org/u-s-aggression-heightens-tensions-in-korea-as-park-government-overthrown/>
- North Korea threatens 'final doom' after US deploys strategic bombers  
<http://www.mintpressnews.com/north-korea-threatens-final-doom-after-us-deploys-strategic-bombers/227435/>
- Prelude to war: defend People's Korea!  
<https://anti-imperialism.org/2017/04/14/crisis-on-the-peninsula-defend-peoples-korea/>
- UN asserts link between North Korea and Syrian chemical weapons  
<http://www.mintpressnews.com/un-asserts-link-north-korea-syria-chemical-weapons-program/231262/>
- When the piper pays you: following the dangerous tune of the South Korean regime  
<https://anti-imperialism.org/2015/09/02/when-the-piper-pays-you-following-the-dangerous-tune-of-the-south-korean-regime/>
- Reviewing the evidence of DPRK culpability for the Cheonan Warship incident  
<https://www.globalresearch.ca/reviewing-the-evidence-of-dprk-culpability-for-the-cheonan-warship-incident/2133>
- War crimes investigation of North Korea ludicrous beyond words  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2010/12/07/war-crimes-investigation-of-north-korea-ludicrous-beyond-words/>
- North Korea's "Hate America Month?"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mu3nasgUk6A>
- Pentagon leads over 300,000 troops in a rehearsal for an invasion one week after the white house announces its considering military action against North Korea  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2017/03/13/pentagon-leads-over-300000-troops-in-a-rehearsal-for-an-invasion-one-week-after-the-white-house-announces-its-considering-military-action-against-north-korea/>
- Washington considers military action against North Korea to force regime change  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2017/03/07/washingtons-considers-military-action-against-north-korea-to-force-regime-change/>
- Beating the drum for a 'good' nuclear war with North Korea  
<http://www.mintpressnews.com/beating-the-drum-for-a-good-nuclear-war-with-north-korea/231710/>
- South Korea's plan to assassinate Kim Jong-Un  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/09/23/asia/south-korea-plan-to-assassinate-kim-jong-un/>
- Colin Powell says U.S. should destroy North Korean regime if it uses Nuclear Weapons  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_7g\\_8mxalvQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7g_8mxalvQ)
- US and North Korea: nuclear threat returns  
<http://revolutionarycommunist.org/americas/united-states/4985-uan021117>
- Pentagon: only ground invasion can destroy North Korean nuclear program  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/05/pentagon-ground-invasion-north-korean-nuclear-program>
- "Better a million dead Koreans" - Ex US army official  
<https://www.telesur.tv/english/news/Better-a-Million-Dead-North-Koreans-Ex-US-Army-Official-20170905-0019.html>

- S. Korea launches “Decapitation Unit” against Kim Jong Un’s government

<https://www.rt.com/news/411802-south-korea-decapitation-unit/>

- December 20th 2017 - Trump’s national security adviser just said the US is ready to take North Korea’s nukes by force

<http://www.businessinsider.com/hr-mcmaster-us-trump-ready-to-take-north-korea-nuclear-weapons-by-force-2017-12>

- Abby Martin discusses the DPRK (among other topics)

<https://revolutionaryleftradio.libsyn.com/needs-title>

## DPR Korea wants peace

- North Korea calls on Trump to ‘scrap anachronistic hostile policy’

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/22/north-korea-calls-trump-scrap-anachronistic-hostile-policy/>

- North Korea offers peace treaty, end of nuclear tests

<http://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jan/15/todd-wood-north-korea-offers-peace-treaty-end-nu/>

- DPRK launches new-year peace offensive

<http://www.cpgb-ml.org/index.php?secName=proletarian&subName=display&art=696>

- N Korea proposes talks on peace treaty with US

<https://www.nknews.org/2015/10/n-korea-proposes-talks-on-peace-treaty-with-u-s/>

- N Korea reiterates need for peace treaty with US

<https://www.nknews.org/2016/01/n-korea-reiterates-need-for-peace-treaty-with-u-s/>

- Taking the long view - why South Korea’s peace movement refuses to give up

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/41486-taking-the-long-view-why-south-korea-s-peace-movement-refuses-to-give-up>

- North Korea foreign minister on what is needed for negotiations with US

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/north-korea-foreign-minister-on-what-is-needed-for-negotiations-with-us/>

- Mike Pompeo’s rant shows CIA more unreasonable than North Korea

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/mike-pompeos-rant-shows-cia-more-unreasonable-than-north-korea/233602/>

- Nobel Peace prize winner scorns North Korean peace offer

<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2010/01/12/nobel-peace-price-winner-scorns-north-korean-peace-offer/>

## History of the DPRK

- The destruction and reconstruction of North Korea 1950-1960 (excellent article)

<https://apijf.org/-Charles-K.-Armstrong/3460/article.html>

- Understanding North Korea

<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2007/03/03/understanding-north-korea/>

- The real reason Washington is worried about North Korea’s ICBM test

<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2017/07/05/the-real-reason-washington-is-worried-about-north-koreas-icbm-test/>

- ‘The Interview’ in historical perspective: endless war against North Korea

<https://www.liberationnews.org/the-interview-in-historical-perspective-the-endless-war-against-north-korea/>

- Korea stands strong: Kim Jong-Il in context

<http://www.fightbacknews.org/2011/12/21/korea-stands-strong-kim-jong-il-context>

- Towards a concrete analysis of the DPRK

<https://anti-imperialism.org/2013/11/18/towards-a-concrete-analysis-of-the-dprk/>

- The origins of the DPRK - from division to reunification

<https://stalinsmoustache.org/2015/06/30/the-origins-of-the-dprk-from-division-to-reunification/>

- Let’s talk about Korea: the dangerous tone of US media

<https://journal-neo.org/2016/05/03/let-s-talk-about-korea-the-dangerous-tone-of-us-media/>



US-North Korea relations: experts weigh in on future course

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/us-north-korea-relations-experts-weigh-in-on-future-course/5612102>

- Diplomacy by Dereliction: U.S. policy towards Korea is in disarray (2002)

[http://fpif.org/diplomacy\\_by\\_dereliction\\_us\\_policy\\_toward\\_korea\\_is\\_in\\_disarray/](http://fpif.org/diplomacy_by_dereliction_us_policy_toward_korea_is_in_disarray/)

- The Korean Peninsula: On balloons and leaflets

<https://journal-neo.org/2014/11/16/rus-korejskij-poluostrov-o-vozdushny-h-sharikah-s-listovkami/>

## The nuclear weapons program

- Korea crisis: from 1994 to today - Liberation School

<http://liberationsschool.org/06-10-20-korea-crisis-from-1994-until-to-html/>

- North Korea has nukes because they saw what the US did to Libya

<https://medium.com/@caityjohnstone/gabbard-north-korea-has-nukes-because-they-saw-what-the-us-did-to-libya-12eb352591a1>

- US-DPRK: The Second Phase of the Nuclear Crisis, or "Who Started What

<https://journal-neo.org/2017/11/26/us-dprk-the-second-phase-of-the-nuclear-crisis-or-who-started-what/>

- North Korea: "Sanity" at the brink - Michael Parenti

<http://michaelparenti.org/NorthKorea.html>

- Why North Korea needs nukes - and how to end that

<http://www.moonofalabama.org/2017/04/the-reason-behind-north-koreas-nuclear-program-and-its-offer-to-end-it.html>

- Why the Koreans are not 'MAD'

<http://www.workers.org/2017/09/05/why-the-koreans-are-not-mad/>

- North Korea keeps saying it might give up its nuclear weapons - but most news outlets won't tell you that

<https://mronline.org/2017/08/28/north-korea-keeps-saying-it-might-give-up-its-nuclear-weapons-but-most-news-outlets-wont-tell-you-that/>

- The people's bomb: on North Korean nuclearization

<https://anti-imperialism.org/2016/02/09/the-peoples-bomb-on-north-korean-nuclearization/>

- North Korea missile test a response to U.S. provocations, not the other way around

<https://www.liberationnews.org/north-korea-missile-test-a-response-to-u-s-provocations-not-the-other-way-around/>

- This is what's really behind North Korea's nuclear provocations

<http://worldbeyondwar.org/%EF%BB%BF-whats-really-behind-north-koreas-nuclear-provocations/>

- Reality and hypocrisy: DPRK nuclear test condemned by nuclear powers

<https://journal-neo.org/2016/01/19/reality-and-hypocrisy-dprk-nuclear-test-condemned-by-nuclear-powers/>

- The courage to decide for peace: the threat of nuclear annihilation

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-courage-to-decide-for-peace-the-threat-of-nuclear-annihilation/5612590>

- North Korea won't negotiate nuclear deal with 'hostile' US

<https://www.telesur.tv/english/news/North-Korea-Wont-Negotiate-Nuclear-Deal-With-Hostile-US-20170822-0017.html>

- Why North Korea needs nuclear weapons

<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2013/02/16/why-north-korea-needs-nuclear-weapons/>

- North Korea has learnt the brutal lessons of US regime change and will not disarm

<https://www.rt.com/op-edge/399474-north-korea-nuclear-us/>

- DPRK official explaining why it needs its nuclear weapons programme at the UN

<https://www.facebook.com/DankDPRKMemes/videos/474956852876104/>

- The new Hwasong-15 ICBM: a significant improvement that may be ready as early as 2018

<http://www.38north.org/2017/11/mellemann113017/>

- China moving towards accepting Nuclear armed Korea

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2017/12/05/2017120501014.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2017/12/05/2017120501014.html)

- USA-DPRK: Torpedoing the outcome of the 2005 Joint Statement

<https://journal-neo.org/2017/12/11/usa-dprk-torpedoing-the-outcome-of-the-2005-joint-statement/>

## General

- Interview with the DPRK Ambassador to London, Yongho Thae, 2013 (Excellent)  
<http://www.lalkar.org/article/2382/interview-understanding-and-defending-north-korea>
- Why do North Koreans hold such respect towards their leaders? Cuba as an example  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npkeecCErQc>
- CrossTalk: North Korea Saga  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-gjDtQ8OeY>
- North Korea is sitting on a stockpile of minerals worth trillions  
<http://uk.businessinsider.com/north-korea-stockpile-minerals-worth-trillions-2017-6?r=US&IR=T>
- Largest known rare earth deposit discovered in North Korea  
<http://www.mining.com/largest-known-rare-earth-deposit-discovered-in-north-korea-86139/>
- North Korea is a major opium producer, making it a prime target for the CIA  
<http://www.mintpressnews.com/north-korea-major-opium-producer-making-prime-target-cia/227573/>
- DPRK Climate change agreement  
<http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Democratic%20People%27s%20Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/DPRK-INDC%20by%202030.pdf>
- DPRK commentary on US decision to pull out of Paris Agreement  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/News/world/politics/north-korea-donald-trump-paris-agreement-latest-height-of-egotism-korean-central-news-agency-a7778341.html>
- DPRK NDC's - a climate change window into the DPRK energy sector  
<https://nautilus.org/napsnet/napsnet-policy-forum/the-dprks-intended-nationally-determined-contribution-to-commitments-under-the-unfccc-a-climate-change-window-into-the-dprk-energy-sector/>
- What the media won't tell you about North Korea (good video, though marred by a reference to the Rothschilds)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUxNktEGslk>
- South Korea covered up mass murder of vagrants before 1988 olympics  
<https://nypost.com/2016/04/19/south-korea-covered-up-mass-murder-of-vagrants-before-1988-olympics/>

## Writings of Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-Il, Kim Jong-Un

- On the establishment of the Workers' Party of North Korea and the question of founding the Workers' Party of South Korea  
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/1946/09/26.htm>
- For the development of the Non-Aligned Movement  
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/1986/06/20.htm>
- For a free and peaceful new world  
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/1986/06/20.htm>
- On eliminating dogmatism and formalism and establishing Juche in ideological work  
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/1955/12/28.htm>
- Kim Jong-Un aphorisms  
<https://www.scribd.com/document/355145202/Kim-Jong-Un-Aphorisms-1>
- Kim Il-Sung internet archive  
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/index.htm>
- DPRK E-library  
[http://www.korea-dpr.com/e\\_library.html](http://www.korea-dpr.com/e_library.html)
- Korean Friendship Association Official Book/Article library  
<https://www.kfausa.org/official-dprk-books-and-article-pdfs/>
- Revolution and Socialist Construction in Korea - Selected Writings of Kim Il Sung (scanned book)  
<https://archive.org/details/RevolutionSocialistConstructionKorea>
- For the Independent, Peaceful Reunification of Korea by Kim Il-Sung (scanned book)

# DPRK international relations etc.

## General

- DPRK Ambassador confirms his country's readiness to support health sector in Syria  
<https://sana.sy/en/?p=83530>
- North Korea's African allies  
<https://thediomat.com/2016/06/north-koreas-african-allies/>
- North Korea pays tribute to anti-imperialist friend Fidel  
<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/North-Korea-Pays-Tribute-to-Anti-Imperialist-Friend-Fidel-20161129-0024.html>
- Cuba, N Korea unite in rejecting "unilateral and arbitrary" US pressure  
<https://www.rt.com/news/410698-cuba-north-korea-coercive-us/>
- North Korea punished for helping to liberate Africa  
<https://journal-neo.org/2016/03/18/north-korea-punished-for-helping-to-liberate-africa/>
- Juche in the United States: The Black Panther Party's relations with North Korea, 1969-1971  
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170811183704/apjif.org/2015/13/12/Benjamin-Young/4303.html>
- How Black Panthers turned to North Korea in fight against US imperialism  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/19/black-panthers-north-korea-us-imperialism>

## RoK/DPRK/PRC/Peace process

- Beyond headlines: here's North Korea's actual statement on Trump meeting  
<https://www.liberationnews.org/beyond-headlines-heres-north-koreas-actual-statement-trump-meeting/>
- Seoul offers Kim Jong-un grand bargain to link North and South Korean economies with China  
<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/2145052/seoul-offers-kim-jong-un-grand-bargain-link-north-and>
- South Korean trust in North Korea jumps after feel-good summit  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-southkorea/north-korea-to-align-with-souths-time-zone-as-first-practical-step-toward-reconciliation-idUSKBN1I1040>
- Diplomacy with North Korea has worked before and can work again  
<https://www.thenation.com/article/diplomacy-with-north-korea-has-worked-before-and-can-work-again/>
- Loud & Clear: War or Peace? (1st hour) discussing peace talks - good listen  
[https://sputniknews.com/radio\\_loud\\_and\\_clear/201803101062385482-war-or-peace-trump-accepts-dprks-invitation-to-meet-maybe/](https://sputniknews.com/radio_loud_and_clear/201803101062385482-war-or-peace-trump-accepts-dprks-invitation-to-meet-maybe/)
- Peace as armageddon (excellent article discussing the media reaction to peace talks)  
<http://www.zoominkorea.org/peace-as-armageddon/>
- Kim Jong Un's meeting with South Korean officials (interesting read!)  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-southkorea-hospit/over-hotpot-and-soju-north-koreas-kim-jong-un-joked-about-himself-south-korea-officials-idUSKCN1GL0JE>
- PSL statement on the potential for Trump-DPRK negotiations (very good article)  
<https://www.liberationnews.org/psl-orientation-on-the-potential-of-trump-dprk-negotiations/>
- Kim Jong-un reaches 'satisfactory agreement' with South Korean delegation  
<https://www.rt.com/news/420558-satisfactory-agreement-kim-korea-talks/>
- South Korea sending special envoy to North Korea, President Moon tells Trump

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/2135343/south-korea-sending-special-envoy-north-korea-president-moon-jae-tells>

- China-South Korea relations: a delicate balance

<https://thediplomat.com/2018/02/china-south-korea-relations-a-delicate-detente/>

- Inter-Korea talks score gold at Olympics

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/inter-korea-talks-score-gold-olympics-us-autopilot-diplomacy-wipes/237776/>

- Korea agree to hold high-level talks next week (5/1/2018)

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20180105000329#cb>

- The South tells US that war is not on the table

<https://www.telesur.tv/english/news/As-North-Korea-Sentences-Trump-to-Death-the-South-Tells-US-War-Not-On-the-Table-20171115-0038.html>

- Very good analysis of the current dialogue between RoK and DPRK (January 2018)

<http://www.38north.org/2018/01/rcarlinjwit010318/>

- Why China and Russia continue to pass UN sanctions resolutions against North Korea

<https://www.facebook.com/MilitaryWatch.Analysis/posts/1897112317275463>

- RUSSIA IS AIDING NORTH KOREA WITH OIL IMPORTS, IGNORING U.S. EFFORTS TO ISOLATE KIM JONG UN: REPORT

<http://www.newsweek.com/russia-north-korea-oil-imports-kim-jong-un-united-states-736144>

- China and Russia train for war with U.S. if Trump invades North Korea

<http://www.newsweek.com/china-could-fight-us-war-north-korea-breaks-out-751779>

- South Korea president suggests joint drills with U.S. could be suspended

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/20/south-korea-president-suggests-joint-drills-with-us-could-be-suspended>

<https://www.rt.com/news/410698-cuba-north-korea-coercive-us/>

- China should stop regime change in North Korea: state media

<https://www.telesur.tv/english/news/China-Should-Stop-Regime-Change-in-North-Korea-State-Media-20170811-0005.html>

- China's Communist Party says it is still talking to North Korean side

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/10/21/asia-pacific/chinas-communist-party-says-still-talking-north-korean-side/#.Wf5QAFu0OUl>

- China says it will defend North Korea in event of US invasion

<http://theduran.com/china-says-will-defend-north-korea-in-event-of-us-invasion/>

- China expresses support for Moscow's position on NK crisis settlement

<https://sputniknews.com/world/201710231058474028-china-russia-north-korea/>

- Russia's role in the North Korea conundrum: part of the problem or part of the solution?

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2016/03/russias-role-in-the-north-korea-conundrum-part-of-the-problem-or-part-of-the-solution/>

- China-North Korea trade increases

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/13/world/asia/china-north-korea-trade-coal-nuclear.html>

- China says it will defend North Korea in event of US invasion

<http://theduran.com/china-says-will-defend-north-korea-in-event-of-us-invasion/>

- Xi: China, ROK to enhance communication on promoting peace

<https://www.chinadailyasia.com/articles/52/116/171/1513263969724.html>

- China should stop regime change in North Korea: state media

<https://www.telesur.tv/english/news/China-Should-Stop-Regime-Change-in-North-Korea-State-Media-20170811-0005.html>

- Russia and China join forces in anti-missile defense drill

<http://www.newsweek.com/russia-and-china-join-forces-anti-missile-defense-drill-beijing-750711>

- China and Russia train for war with U.S. if Trump invades North Korea

<http://www.newsweek.com/china-could-fight-us-war-north-korea-breaks-out-751779>

- South Korea president suggests joint drills with US could be suspended

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/20/south-korea-president-suggests-joint-drills-with-us-could-be-suspended>

- Washington should switch from threats to dialogue on North Korea - Chinese envoy to US

# The Propaganda War

## Human Rights

- Hazel Smith - Crimes Against Humanity? Unpacking the North Korean Human Rights Debate - a highly recommended paper

<http://criticalasianstudies.org/issues/vol46/no1/crimes-against-humanity.html>

[https://www.academia.edu/6296645/Crimes\\_against\\_humanity\\_Unpacking\\_the\\_North\\_Korean\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Debate](https://www.academia.edu/6296645/Crimes_against_humanity_Unpacking_the_North_Korean_Human_Rights_Debate)

- UN report on human rights in DPRK is a propaganda tool

<https://redyouth.org/2014/02/19/un-report-attack-on-socialist-korea-china/>

## Debunking the dominant narrative

- Why everything you think you know about North Korea is wrong

<https://sputniknews.com/analysis/201803021062166494-north-korea-loretta-napoleoni/>

- North Korea is more rational than you think: an interview with Bruce Cumings

<https://mronline.org/2018/02/12/north-korea-is-more-rational-than-you-think-an-interview-with-bruce-cumings/>

- Why Westerners keep returning to North Korea (article mentions that Westerner can access the internet!)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-09/why-westerners-keep-returning-to-north-korea/9231908>

- Defectors think most North Koreans approve of Kim Jong-Un

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2013/08/30/217186480/defectors-think-most-north-koreans-approve-of-kim-jong-un>

- South Korea good, North Korea bad? Not a very useful outlook

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jul/19/korean-conflict-time-nuanced-view>

- Rethinking the North Korean “collapse narrative”: the most demonized country worldwide

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/rethinking-the-north-korean-collapse-narrative-the-most-demonized-country-worldwide/5410636>

- North Korea, The UN, and war propaganda

<https://journal-neo.org/2014/11/30/north-korea-the-un-and-war-propaganda-2/>

- US image of North Korea does not conform with reality - RT America

<https://www.facebook.com/RTAmerica/videos/10154387760731366/>

SEN. COATS: "Well, he's (Kim Jong-un) demonstrated behavior publicly that really raises some questions about who he is and how he thinks and how he acts, what his behavior is, but our assessment has come -- has pretty much resulted in the fact that while he's a very unusual type of person, he's not crazy. And there is some rationale backing his actions which are survival, survival for his regime, survival for his country, and he has watched I think what has happened around the world relative to nations that possess nuclear capabilities and the leverage they have and seen that having the nuclear card in your pocket results in a lot of deterrence capability. The lessons that we learned out of Libya giving up its nukes and Ukraine giving up its nukes is unfortunately if you had nukes, never give them up. If you don't have them, get them."

- US Director of National Intelligence on Kim Jong-Un:



- Senior CIA official: Kim Jong-Un is “very rational”  
<https://sputniknews.com/military/201710051057970924-cia-north-korea-rational/>
- How and why the western media gets North Korea’s economy wrong  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2014/12/30/how-and-why-the-western-news-media-get-north-korea-s-economy-wrong/>
- UN report on North Korea could be about the United States or South Korea  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2014/02/18/un-report-on-north-korea-could-be-about-the-united-states-or-south-korea/>
- North Korea is not an existential threat - but many people benefit by saying it is  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y\\_z\\_pG7x8T0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_z_pG7x8T0)

## Assorted Anti-DPRK propaganda

- South Korea “humbly accepts” there is no proof border park cash funded North’s weapons  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles/south-korea-humbly-accepts-there-is-no-proof-of-border-park-cash-funded-norths-weapons-idUSKBN1EM064>
- If the BBC reported on the royal family like it did on North Korea  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2015/10/21/if-the-bbc-reported-on-the-royal-family-like-it-did-on-north-korea/>
- Serbian Coach reveals how mainstream media ‘kills’ NK athletes  
<https://sputniknews.com/analysis/201709161057447560-north-korea-mainstream-media-bias/>
- Western DPRK Propaganda: The worst, occasionally hilarious, and often racist, lies  
<https://anti-imperialism.org/2014/08/14/western-dprk-propaganda-the-worst-occasionally-hilarious-and-often-racist-lies/>
- Crazy Anti-North Korean propaganda  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQkgP6z8XW4>
- Songbullshit - The Evidence that Every Accusation against the DPRK in Robert Collins' and the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea's “Marked for Life: Songbun – North Korea's Social Classification System” is False  
<https://www.rhizzone.net/articles/songbullshit/>
- North Korean Propaganda: A Cavalcade of Comedy  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49SO4vn4SNl>
- The propaganda war against North Korea  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7f22QGIWXGw>
- The Haircut - A North Korean adventure  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BO83lq-E8E>
- Interview with makers of The Haircut  
<https://www.patreon.com/posts/interview-with-14579589>
- A lot of what you know about North Korea is racist nonsense  
<https://medium.com/defiant/a-lot-of-what-you-know-about-north-korea-is-racist-nonsense-a625256b51cc>
- Family declines autopsy for US student released by North Korea  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-northkorea-detainee-idUSKBN19B25Z>
- Amnesty International botches blame for North Korea’s crumbling healthcare  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2010/07/20/amnesty-international-botches-blame-for-north-korea%E2%80%99s-crumbling-healthcare/>
- Dispelling myths about North Korea  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1241&v=HNf3wM0feb8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1241&v=HNf3wM0feb8)
- Why is North Korea so crazy?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS9Zti5oKrl&feature=youtu.be>
- TYT dumbasses on the DPRK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yUtU-xKPms>

- WHO blasts Amnesty for N. Korea health report - CBS news

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/who-blasts-amnesty-for-n-korea-health-report/>

- Why is North Korea so crazy?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS9Zti5oKrl&feature=youtu.be>

- "Forbidden photos taken inside Kim Jong-Un's secretive state" - commentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn2lrl-rfiE>

- "27 smuggled pictures North Korea doesn't want you to see" - commentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD9MIIQ0Gpw>

- Excerpt from "The Propaganda Game"

<https://www.facebook.com/DankDPRKMemes/videos/417962668575523/>

- US imperialist 'human rights' campaigns - who are they fooling?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0p6EH5TEOU>

- Human rights: DPRK vs USA

<http://www.cpgb-ml.org/index.php?secName=proletarian&subName=display&art=1070>

- South Korea and the art of collaboration: Raw war propaganda against the DPRK

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/south-korea-and-the-art-of-collaboration-raw-war-propaganda-against-the-dprk/5512043>

- What if North Korea is not crazy? - CNN

<https://www.facebook.com/cnn/videos/10157029124596509/>

- Otto Warmbier's body showed no signs of torture - coroner

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-41423729>

- Warmbier family decline autopsy for US student released by North Korea

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-northkorea-detainee/family-declines-autopsy-for-u-s-student-released-by-north-korea-idUSKBN19B25Z>

- Myths and Misconceptions about North Korea | DEBUNKED

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhaHiht50AA>

- The North Korean purge that didn't happen

<https://blogs.wsj.com/korearealtime/2014/03/07/the-north-korean-purge-that-didnt-happen/?mod=WSJBlog&ref=gc>

- 5 lies by Steve Shives

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e\\_mjOfYxwzM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_mjOfYxwzM)

- DPRK Never Removed Marxism From The Constitution

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfm\\_K6eil6Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfm_K6eil6Y)

- Half of North Koreans Have Guns and Artillery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXpSap6FhR4>

- 'Show us the evidence': N. Korea invites US to prove Pyongyang's WannaCry connection

<https://www.rt.com/usa/414241-north-korean-wannacry-attack/>

- Does the DPRK kidnap Japanese people?

Japan wants the Koreans to stop bringing up the sexual enslavement of tens of thousands of Korean women by the Imperial Japanese Army, saying that it's in the past and the Koreans are just being petty.

Meanwhile Japan can't manage to shut up, not for one single second, about a small handful of so-called "Japanese abductees taken to North Korea", even though this was resolved well over a decade ago and there's no evidence that any "kidnapped" Japanese citizens remain in the DPRK. In any case, there's no evidence that any Japanese person was mistreated in the DPRK, unlike the Japanese army's thousands of Korean sex slaves.

This whole thing was resolved quite a long time ago when Japan's then-PM Koizumi met Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang and they discussed the issue. Japanese people in the DPRK returned home to Japan and that should have been the end of it. But right-wingers in Japan have never, ever stopped howling about it, because it's emotionally manipulative propaganda that wins them votes that they can use for their remilitarization agenda, a large part of which depends on portraying the DPRK as a threat to the people of Japan.

One can say that the DPRK has made mistakes in its relations with Japan, and Kim Jong Il himself apologized for such mistakes, but from the DPRK's perspective, the balance of injustice remains heavily on the side of Japan, which colonized, exploited, raped and tortured the people of Korea for decades. And unlike the DPRK, Japan has refused to even apologize for its actions, let alone to pay reparations. Not only were thousands of Korean women made into sex slaves for the Japanese army, but also, thousands of Korean workers were taken to Japan as slaves to do hard labor for the profits of Japanese industrialists. This is the cause of a lot of bad blood between Korea and Japan. Japan would rather forget this and pretend it didn't happen, but Koreans haven't forgotten it and they're not going to. From the DPRK's perspective, Japan owes Korea a heavy debt that it has always refused to pay.

One of the things the Japanese media and right-wing politicians have been doing is pretending that there are Japanese "abductees" in the DPRK to this day. They have no evidence for this at all. There was one case where there was a man who was claimed to have been kidnapped to the DPRK, and then he was found somewhere else in Japan; he had simply ditched his family and gone to live somewhere else. Politicians had baselessly claimed that he was in the DPRK. Often when there's a missing-person case in Japan, especially if it's somewhere on the coast of the Sea of Japan, it will be claimed that the DPRK has been kidnapping people. It's convenient for Japan to do this not only for political reasons of feeding a right-wing nationalist agenda, but also to sweep the problem of crime in Japan under the rug. There's no room for crime in the "beautiful Japan" conjured up by the LDP's propaganda; any crime must be the doing of foreigners, especially Koreans and Chinese. Women who are kidnapped and raped and murdered in Japan by Japanese citizens aren't politically convenient, in fact they're quite inconvenient, and are ignored; unless what happened to them can be blamed on foreigners, particularly Koreans or Chinese.

## Eyewitness accounts and travel logs

- A look at life in North Korea

[http://avax.news/fact/A\\_Look\\_at\\_Life\\_in\\_North\\_Korea\\_03-10-2017.html](http://avax.news/fact/A_Look_at_Life_in_North_Korea_03-10-2017.html)

- In North Korea: First eye-witness report by Anna Louise-Strong (1949)

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/strong-anna-louise/1949/in-north-korea/>

- My trip to North Korea: 13 misconceptions corrected

<https://www.liberationnews.org/my-trip-to-north-korea-13-misconceptions-corrected/>

- Eyewitness North Korea: An American's journey to the DPRK before the travel ban

<http://www.hamptoninstitution.org/eyewitness-north-korea.html#.WbWO17KGOU>

- An American tourist in North Korea: Exploring the DPRK and running the Pyongyang Marathon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkN42srizJo>

- What we saw in North Korea goes against everything western media wants us to believe - American Herald Tribune

<https://ahtribune.com/world/asia-pacific/1883-north-korea-washington.html>

- Adelaide student studying in Pyongyang

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/a/37230864/adelaide-student-studying-in-pyongyang-north-korea/>

- Serbian tourists visit DPRK

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201709121057330168-serbia-tourists-visit/>

- Surfing in North Korea

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cO4M1U\\_2bmk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cO4M1U_2bmk)

- Iranian Muslims in NK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLw1v-xQA7I>

- The Greek who lived in North Korea

<http://greece.greekreporter.com/2017/10/14/exclusive-the-greek-who-lived-in-north-korea-tells-her-story/>

- Playlist of short clips taken in DPRK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUoQioU65Mk&list=PLqtiZC-4QZC1gws0TTZSW8SPVSIW2Oos&index=1>

- Tourist who took camera inside North Korea shocked at seemingly ordinary lives of citizens

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2638213/Tourist-took-camera-inside-North-Korea-expected-really-really-sad-people-shocked-seemingly-ordinary-lives-citizens.html>

- Gay travellers in DPRK

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/business/how-to-plan-a-safe-trip-for-gay-and-transgender-travelers.html>

- North Korea in the eyes of Turkey's Socialists

[https://medium.com/@bcloud\\_/north-korea-in-the-eyes-of-turkey-s-socialist-s-c673510e64db](https://medium.com/@bcloud_/north-korea-in-the-eyes-of-turkey-s-socialist-s-c673510e64db)

- Visit to the DPRK by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)

<https://marxistleninist.wordpress.com/2008/11/30/cpn-maoist-on-juche-in-dprk/>

- Marcel Cartier: a trip to North Korea

<http://dekusada.blogspot.hk/2014/04/by-marcel-cartier-i-had-unique.html>

## Life inside Korea

- The social and economic achievements of North Korea

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-social-and-economic-achievements-of-north-korea/5594234>

- Real DPRK economic data by Jason Unruhe

<https://youtu.be/AM0faLccYuQ>

- Here's what it's like inside a North Korean grocery store

<http://uk.businessinsider.com/north-korea-trump-store-food-2017-5?r=US&IR=T>

- Why Pyongyang is using gleaming skyscrapers to show 'potential of socialist Korea'

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/cbc-north-korea-ryomyong-street-opening-1.4069982>

- No homeless in Pyongyang, says defector

<https://www.upi.com/%E2%80%A6/North-Korean-defector-s%E2%80%A6/8801457150974/>

- Pyongyang Lessons: North Korea from inside the classroom

<https://www.amazon.com/Pyongyang-Lessons-North-Inside-Classroom/dp/148272975X>

- Religion in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea?

<https://stalinsmoustache.org/2015/06/16/religion-in-the-democratic-peoples-republic-of-korea/>

- The Churches of Pyongyang

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qvpHD2M3WM>

- Korean Orthodox wedding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUqGMcMyZgs>

- Yes, DPRKoreans have smartphones!

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/north-korean-smartphone-jindallae-3/>

- North Korean architecture

<https://io9.gizmodo.com/north-koreas-modern-architecture-an-alternate-universe-1613846991>

- North Korea that neither Trump nor western media wants the world to see

<http://www.mintpressnews.com/north-korea-neither-trump-nor-western-media-wants-world-see/>

- Under the care of the state

<http://exploredprk.com/articles/under-the-state-care/>

- Pyongyang Sci-Tech centre

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_d39JvG7u8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_d39JvG7u8)

- Sci-Tech complex in Pyongyang

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CPqTpnv\\_vo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CPqTpnv_vo)

- Day of persons with disabilities marked

<http://exploredprk.com/news/day-of-persons-with-disabilities-marked/>

- Members of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled giving performance

<http://exploredprk.com/news/disabled-people-gave-performance/>

- Photographer claims North Korea worth visiting (beautiful photography)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4595654/Photographer-claims-North-Korea-worth-visiting.html>

- 360 Panoramic views in the DPRK

<https://www.dprk360.com/360/index.html>

- Incredible album full of images taken around the DPRK

<https://imgur.com/gallery/WU4Mb>

- Inside the North Korean cocoon (short video montage filmed in DPRK)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCS-W9MFZKQ>

- Very large album of pictures taken inside the DPRK

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/dprk360/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=214475598676276](https://www.facebook.com/pg/dprk360/photos/?tab=album&album_id=214475598676276)

- Marcel Cartier trip to North Korea: photos

<https://dekusada.blogspot.hk/2014/05/marcel-cartier-north-korea-trip-photos.html>

- Eva Bartlett trip to DPRK

[https://www.facebook.com/EvaBoBeeva/media\\_set?set=a.1664413886901932.1073741908.100000000104830&type=3&pnref=lhc](https://www.facebook.com/EvaBoBeeva/media_set?set=a.1664413886901932.1073741908.100000000104830&type=3&pnref=lhc)

- Derek Ford's pictures of his travels in DPRK on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/ford.derek/media\\_set?set=a.938928138735.1073741830.41400390](https://www.facebook.com/ford.derek/media_set?set=a.938928138735.1073741830.41400390)

- Inside the secretive world of North Korea's military (ignore the ridiculous commentary; if taking photos of soldiers is 'forbidden' why are soldiers posing for the photographer and how was he able to get them out of the country?)

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/inside-secretive-world-north-koreas-10210609>

- Living With Absences: A Foreigner's Sojourn in Pyongyang by Hazel Smith (fascinating paper from 2001/2002, so very dated in regards to how open the country is, but a good read nonetheless)

[https://www.academia.edu/12701480/Living\\_with\\_Absences\\_A\\_Foreigners\\_Sojourn\\_in\\_Pyongyang](https://www.academia.edu/12701480/Living_with_Absences_A_Foreigners_Sojourn_in_Pyongyang)  
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## Defectors

- After fleeing North Korea, some defectors want to go back to life under Kim Jong Un

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-15/north-korean-defectors-returning-to-the-hermit-kingdom/9254654>

- North Korea: Defectors and their skeptics

<https://thediplomat.com/2014/10/north-korea-defectors-and-their-skeptics/>

- Why do North Korean defector testimonies so often fall apart?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/13/why-do-north-korean-defector-testimonies-so-often-fall-apart>

- Seoul to quadruple reward fee for North Korean defectors - CNN

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/03/05/asia/south-korea-reward-defectors/>

- Korea's hidden problem: suicidal defectors

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-34710403>

- Defector wants to return to North Korea - CNN

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/09/23/asia/north-south-korea-defector-family/index.html>

- Hoping to Lure High-Level Defectors, South Korea Increases Rewards

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/05/world/asia/hoping-to-lure-high-level-defectors-south-korea-increases-rewards.html>

- South Korea bans North Korean defector from repatriation - UPI.com

<http://www.upi.com/%E2%80%A6/Seoul-rejects-North-Kor%E2%80%A6/7441442934149/>

- North Korean Defector, 'Treated Like Dirt' in South, Fights to Return

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/05/world/asia/north-korea-defector-south-korea.html>

- The strange tale of Yeonmi Park

<https://thediplomat.com/2014/12/the-strange-tale-of-yeonmi-park/>

- Defectors think most North Koreans approve of Kim Jong-Un

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2013/08/30/217186480/defectors-think-most-north-koreans-approve-of-kim-jong-un>

- Seoul bans North Korean defector from repatriation

<https://www.upi.com/%E2%80%A6/Seoul-rejects-North-Kor%E2%80%A6/7441442934149/>

- Why two North Korean defectors want to go back

<https://www.nknews.org/2017/09/why-two-north-korean-defectors-want-to-go-back/>

- Why do North Korean defectors keep changing their stories?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkegD7V9E6g>

- Prominent North Korean defector recants parts of his story

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/01/19/world/asia/prominent-north-korean-defector-shin-dong-hyuk-recants-parts-of-his-story.html>

- North Korean defector says she feels "trapped" in the South

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUMtDlusNUs&feature=youtu.be>



- Why does this North Korean defector want to return home? (mixed short video from the BBC)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKYqtKZ\\_8eA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKYqtKZ_8eA)
- South Korea shoots dead defector fleeing to the North  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/10312221/South-Korean-army-shoots-dead-defector.html>
- South Korea shoots dead man swimming to the North  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-24105977>
- Why South Korea is offering more money to North Korean defectors  
<http://www.newsweek.com/why-south-korea-offering-more-money-north-korean-defectors-564330>
- North Korean defector interrupts UN Human Rights event, pleads to return home  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/12/14/north-korean-defector-interrupts-un-human-rights-event-plead/>

## The food situation in DPRK

- Nutrition and Health in North Korea: What's New, What's Changed and Why It Matters (excellent paper by Hazel Smith)  
[https://www.academia.edu/25554321/Nutrition\\_and\\_Health\\_in\\_North\\_Korea\\_Whats\\_New\\_Whats\\_Changed\\_and\\_Why\\_It\\_Matters](https://www.academia.edu/25554321/Nutrition_and_Health_in_North_Korea_Whats_New_Whats_Changed_and_Why_It_Matters)
- North Korea as the Wicked Witch of the East: Social Science as Fairytale (paper by Hazel Smith)  
[https://www.academia.edu/6130295/North\\_Korea\\_as\\_the\\_Wicked\\_Witch\\_of\\_the\\_East\\_Social\\_Science\\_as\\_Fairy\\_Tale](https://www.academia.edu/6130295/North_Korea_as_the_Wicked_Witch_of_the_East_Social_Science_as_Fairy_Tale)
- Hunger in North Korea is devastating. And it's our fault.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/17/opinion/weapons-north-korea-hunger.html?mtrref=www.facebook.com&assetType=opinion>
- World Food Programme webpage for the DPRK  
<http://www1.wfp.org/countries/democratic-peoples-republic-korea>
- Mission East page on DPRK  
<http://www.miseast.org/en/nkorea/food-insecurity-north-korea>
- Korea's food situation: stable and improving (From the Council on Foreign Relations!)  
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/north-koreas-food-situation-stable-and-improving>
- The Food Situation In North Korea (and other dprk myths)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3fdp00Dgfl>
- Real DPRK economic data by Jason Unruhe  
<https://youtu.be/AM0faLccYuQ>
- The Problematic Evidence Base of the UN Human Rights Council (excellent paper)  
<http://criticalasianstudies.org/issues/vol46/no1/crimes-against-humanity.html>  
[https://www.academia.edu/6296645/Crimes\\_against\\_humanity\\_Unpacking\\_the\\_North\\_Korean\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Debate](https://www.academia.edu/6296645/Crimes_against_humanity_Unpacking_the_North_Korean_Human_Rights_Debate)

“The problem is that the claims about food rights violations in the 2013 UNHCR report are not congruent with the statistical indicators given by UN agencies that have the most experience of working in North Korea. Despite emanating from within the UN system in which access to data on the DPRK is straightforward, the UNHRC reporting on food violations demonstrates a problematic securitization of evidence and analysis though a heavy reliance on prior assumptions and a filtering of information through those securitized assumptions. The UNHRC reporting, of which the February 2013 report is representative, is self-referential, factually inaccurate, and seems unaware of the reports from the UN agencies that have worked in the DPRK for many years. This is somewhat surprising, especially as the weight of the UN agency reporting contradicts the UNHCR claims on food violations.

The 2013 UNHRC report is self-referential in that it draws almost entirely from previous UNHCR reports and resolutions on North Korea and often uses the same wording, that is, the 2013 report cuts and pastes from previous UNHCR reports.<sup>26</sup> The practice of extracting from older reports is standard in governmental or international organization reports, but this practice can be misleading when, as in the 2013 UNHCR report, claims are made with a sense of irrefutable certainty despite the absence of conventional substantiation. What is most striking about the UNHCR reporting on the DPRK is the almost complete absence of reference

to relevant data from other UN agencies, donor governments, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), to the extent that the UNHRC reporting seems unaware of the existence of reports on the DPRK from within the UN system itself. 27 The 2013 UNHRC report references only one report from the specialist UN agencies: a March 2011 FAO/WFP/UNICEF report

on food insecurity in the DPRK. Unfortunately, the citations are third-hand and the material quoted in the UNHCR report is taken so much out of context that it distorts the findings of the original report and misleads the reader.

The 2011 FAO/WFP/UNICEF report does not argue for the exceptional severity of a food and health crisis in the DPRK. It does not argue that there are famine-like conditions prevailing in the population. It does not argue that the government is solely responsible for food insecurity in the country. It does not mention or argue that international protection (i.e., human rights) mandates are being abjured by the DPRK government. This last point is important as UN agencies have an obligation under their protection of human rights mandates to report potential crimes against humanity. The UNHCR reporting does not mention that UN specialist agencies have never identified DPRK government food and health policy in these terms.

The 2013 report to the Human Rights Council referred to “the severity of the food situation” in support of the report’s claims that the government should be considered as violating the right to food. These claims contrast with those of the humanitarian agencies that reported in 2011—in the same and only report from the humanitarian agencies that the 2013 UNHCR report appears to cherry-pick quotes from—that the “nutrition situation...appears to be relatively stable.”<sup>28</sup> In 2012 WFP and UNICEF concurred with an assessment that improvements in acute malnutrition show that the “situation is not critical and does not suggest emergency operations” and that the “Global Chronic Malnutrition or Stunting... is considered as of ‘medium’ public health significance according to WHO Standards.” “

## The Economy

### Reforms

- Pyongyang officials go to study China reforms

<http://mengnews.join.com/view.aspx?ald=3048193>

### Sanctions

- Humanitarian groups suffering under North Korea sanctions

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/humanitarian-groups-suffering-under-north-korea-sanctions/article37617830/>

- Korea, like Serbia, Iraq, Libya. But nuclear!

<http://www.defenddemocracy.press/korea-like-serbia-iraq-libya-but-nuclear/>

- Why do Russia and China not oppose sanctions on the DPRK more?

<https://www.facebook.com/JLeftistArchive/photos/a.1922050888117037.1073741828.1921706061484853/1940582556263870/?type=3&permPage=1>

- Chinese ships spotted selling oil to North Korea

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2017/12/26/2017122601156.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2017/12/26/2017122601156.html)

- Chinese firm smuggles missile parts to North Korea

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2017/09/19/2017091900988.html?related\\_all](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2017/09/19/2017091900988.html?related_all)

- North Korea calls latest UN sanctions 'an act of war'

<https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2017/12/24/politics/north-korea-un-resolution-response/index.html>

- North Korean response to UN sanctions  
<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/world/north-korea-response-un-sncctions-1.4464107>
- Why China and Russia continue to pass UN sanctions resolutions against North Korea  
<https://www.facebook.com/ImperialMilitaryWatch.Analysis/posts/1897112317275463>
- North Korea and the UN sanctions merry go-around  
<https://journal-neo.org/2017/09/17/north-korea-and-the-un-sanctions-merry-go-round/>
- UN sanctions leave North Korean drug maker on life support  
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-n-sanctions-leave-north-korean-drug-maker-on-life-support-1512729000>
- “Serious concern” about sanctions’ impact on North Korea aid work: UN DPRK rep  
<https://www.nknews.org/2017/12/serious-concern-about-sanctions-impact-on-north-korea-aid-work-un-dprk-rep/?c=1512654806814>
- Tokyo & Washington to limit North Korean access to oil  
<https://www.rt.com/business/401457-us-japan-north-korea-oil/>
- DPRK doctor states that sanctions are putting childrens’ lives at risk  
[https://www.facebook.com/PRESSTV/videos/1732744936767286/?hc\\_ref=ARQodwscBdMGd6gXmH8BvMVXHUExtsMHLKxbf3BJ54yyKv24ypUAUtQSp36-kBU0CwI](https://www.facebook.com/PRESSTV/videos/1732744936767286/?hc_ref=ARQodwscBdMGd6gXmH8BvMVXHUExtsMHLKxbf3BJ54yyKv24ypUAUtQSp36-kBU0CwI)
- Report: North Korea faces fertilizer shortage due to China coal sanctions  
[https://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2017/05/05/Report-North-Korea-faces-fertilizer-shortage-due-to-China-coal-sanctions/3391493997741/](https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/05/05/Report-North-Korea-faces-fertilizer-shortage-due-to-China-coal-sanctions/3391493997741/)
- The economy of the DPRK: myth and reality  
<http://writetorebel.com/2017/03/28/the-economy-of-the-dprk-myth-and-reality/>
- Genocide by sanctions: UN double standards pertaining to sanctions and their devastating impacts  
<https://www.globalresearch.ca/north-korea-un-double-standards-pertaining-to-sanctions-and-their-devastating-social-impacts/5364484>
- US sanctions against the DPRK - a North Korean perspective  
<https://www.nknews.org/2017/08/new-u-s-sanctions-against-the-dprk-a-north-korean-perspective/>
- US representatives pass harshest sanctions ever against North Korea  
<https://www.telesur.tv/english/news/US-Reps-Pass-Harshest-Sanctions-Ever-Against-North-Korea-20171025-0006.html>
- Is the United states credible as a guarantor of international peace and security?  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2016/05/31/is-the-united-states-credible-as-a-guarantor-of-international-peace-and-security/>
- Why UN sanctions against North Korea are wrong  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2016/03/06/why-un-sanctions-against-north-korea-are-wrong/>
- It’s just a sanction, bro!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stT-yhxFinA>
- Report: 49 countries have been busting sanctions on North Korea  
<http://money.cnn.com/2017/12/06/news/north-korea-sanctions-countries-violation/index.html>
- N Korea opens international trade fair amid new UN sanctions  
<https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2017/09/a99eccc3d3e-update1-n-korea-opens-international-trade-fair-amid-new-un-sanctions.html>

## Is the DPRK on the verge of collapse?

- Doom and gloom or economic boom: the myth of the North Korean economic collapse (excellent article, worth reading!)  
<https://www.globalresearch.ca/doom-and-gloom-or-economic-boom-the-myth-of-the-north-korean-economic-collapse/5380495>
- North Korea 2016 economic growth at 17-year high despite sanctions: South Korea  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-economy-gdp/north-korea-2016-economic-growth-at-17-year-high-despite-sanctions-south-korea-idUSKBN1A607Z>
- Byungjin in play? North Korea’s top economic officials meet for first time since 2006

<https://thedi diplomat.com/2016/09/byungjin-in-play-north-koreas-top-economic-officials-meet-for-first-time-since-2006/>

- Is North Korea's Byungjin line on the US-China strategic agenda?

<https://thedi diplomat.com/2015/06/is-north-koreas-byungjin-line-on-the-us-china-strategic-agenda/>

- Pyongyang's construction boom: is North Korea beating sanctions?

<http://www.38north.org/2017/07/hferon071817/>

- The social and economic achievements of North Korea

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-social-and-economic-achievements-of-north-korea/5594234>

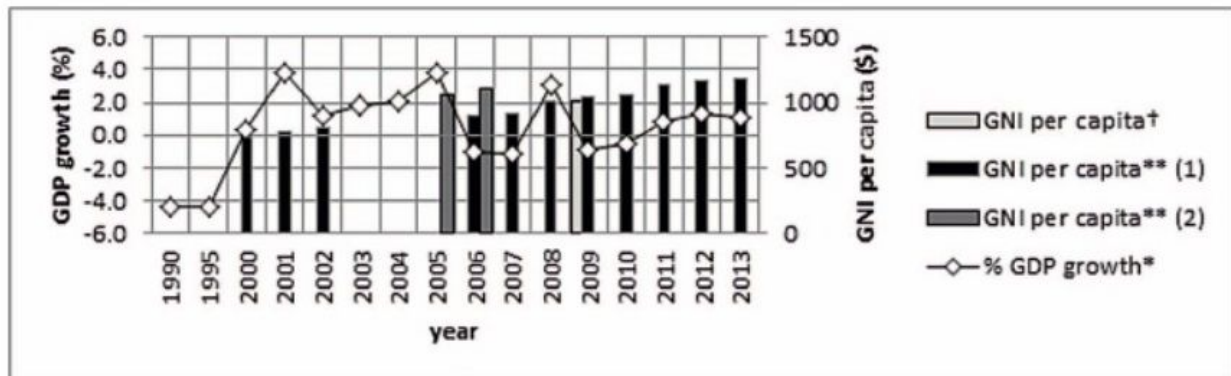


Figure 1. DPRK Economic Indicators

**Sources:** \* Bank of Korea, "Gross Domestic Product indicators for the North Korean economy" (Annual report, 2013).<sup>19</sup>

\*\* Bank of Korea, "Gross Domestic Product Indicators for the North Korean Economy" (Annual reports, 2000–2013, except for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005).<sup>20</sup>

**Key:**

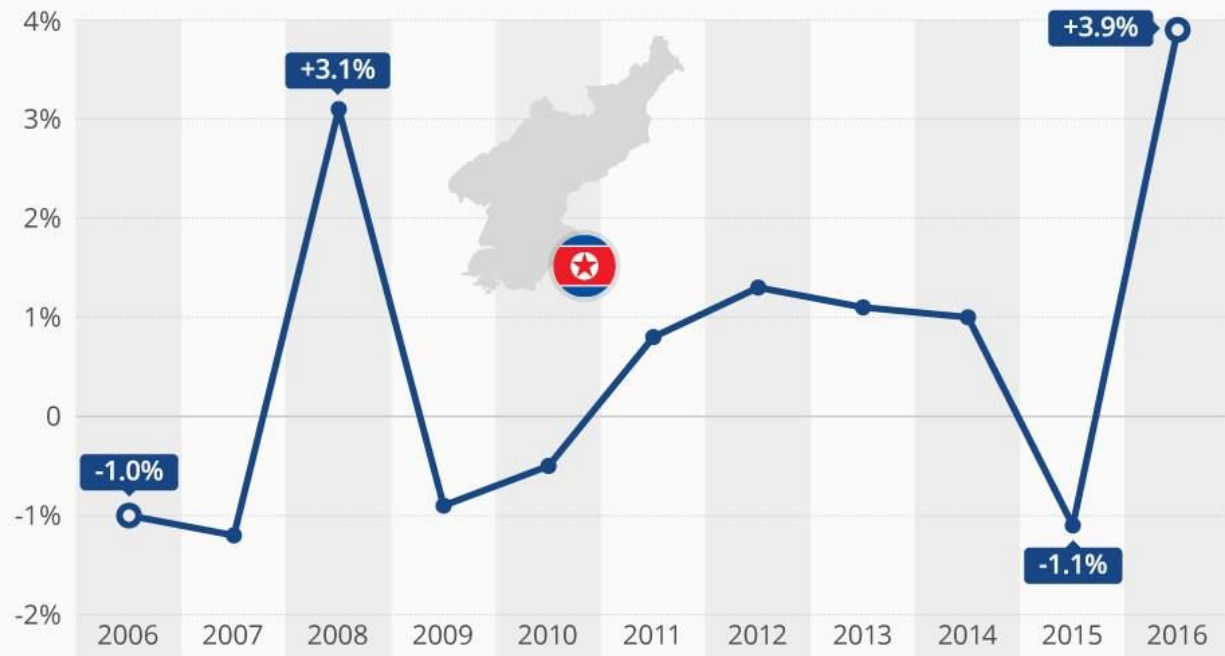
1: All figures in this row converted from Korean won at the exchange rate prevailing in August 2015.

2: All figures in this row given in the original documents in U.S.\$.

†The two different figures for 2009 GNI both come from the Bank of Korea annual reports. The higher figure is from the 2009 report and the lower figure from the 2010 report.

## North Korean Economy Growing Despite Sanctions

Estimated year-over-year GDP growth of North Korea



@StatistaCharts Source: The Bank of Korea

statista

## DPRK Society

### Korean democracy

- Socialism and Democracy in the DPRK

<http://writetorebel.com/2017/03/28/socialism-and-democracy-in-the-dprk/>

- Elections in the “socialist motherland”: democracy in the DPRK

<https://leftistcritic.wordpress.com/2017/03/08/elections-in-the-socialist-motherland-democracy-in-the-dprk/>

- The Democratic Structure of the DPRK

<http://www.lalkar.org/article/2654/the-democratic-structure-of-the-dprk>

- Constitution of the DPRK

<https://www.kfausa.org/dprk-constitution/>

- North Korean report on 2014 elections in English (short)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4P0dMEH4RQ>

- The parliamentary system of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

<http://web.archive.org/web/20120303054935/http://www.asgp.info/Resources/Data/Documents/CJOZSZTEPVVOCWJVUPPZVWPAPUOFGF.pdf>

- Defectors think most North Koreans approve of Kim Jong-Un

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2013/08/30/217186480/defectors-think-most-north-koreans-approve-of-kim-jong-un>

- A model of democratic and participatory socialism

[https://www.reddit.com/r/communism/comments/2kwid3/a\\_model\\_of\\_democratic\\_and\\_participatory\\_socialist/](https://www.reddit.com/r/communism/comments/2kwid3/a_model_of_democratic_and_participatory_socialist/)





## DPRK healthcare, education etc.

- “Something which most other developing countries would envy” : the DPRK’s healthcare system  
<https://leftistcritic.wordpress.com/2017/06/28/something-which-most-other-developing-countries-would-envy-the-dprks-healthcare-system/>
- The real story on North Korea and its healthcare  
<https://gowans.wordpress.com/2010/07/21/the-real-story-on-north-korea-and-its-healthcare/>
- North Korea moving flood victims into new homes  
<https://www.upi.com/North-Korea-moving-flood-victims-into-new-homes/2691479344309/>
- DPRK Healthcare, education and literacy  
<https://www.globalresearch.ca/north-korea-their-health-system-sucks-do-they-have-schools-and-hospitals-in-america-weve-got-medicare/5604293?platform=hootsuite>
- North Korean medical care is good (Jason U video)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9L74NSUEew>
- North Korea has plenty of doctors - WHO  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-korea-north/north-korea-has-plenty-of-doctors-who-idUSTRE63T3TW20100430>

## Juche

- Socialism is a science - Kim Jong-Il  
<http://www.korea-dpr.info/lib/106.pdf>
- What is Juche?  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/communism101/comments/1y172i/what\\_exactly\\_is\\_juche/cfgmgij/](https://www.reddit.com/r/communism101/comments/1y172i/what_exactly_is_juche/cfgmgij/)
- What is Juche? Parts 1 and 2  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGLEsmpYKMc&feature=youtu.be>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGWO79udl0U>
- Juche Idea: Answers to Hundred Questions  
<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B8E-ucthI07ic19CbUxuVDRmSEU/view>
- Juche in the United States  
[https://www.facebook.com/JsBookmarkGulag/posts/1928584870796972?hc\\_location=ufi](https://www.facebook.com/JsBookmarkGulag/posts/1928584870796972?hc_location=ufi)

## Is DPR Korea socialist?

- “Chapter 2: What is a Socialist Society”, *Is the Red Flag Flying? The Political Economy of the Soviet Union* by Albert Szymanski, pages 13-35.  
<https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/ncm-6/red-flag.pdf>
- Korea resilient! Socialism in Democratic Korea  
<https://return2source.wordpress.com/2012/01/17/korea-resilient-socialism-in-democratic-korea/>
- Is the DPRK on a socialist road or is it on a capitalist road?  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/communism101/comments/1ygskq/is\\_the\\_dprk\\_socialist/cfklacu/](https://www.reddit.com/r/communism101/comments/1ygskq/is_the_dprk_socialist/cfklacu/)
- Socialist Korea: a case study in the strategy of economic development by Brun and Hersh  
<http://gen.lib.rus.ec/book/index.php?md5=6b0447bc14808161362b828aee0a284a>

## What is life like in South Korea?

- Young South Koreans call their country ‘hell’ and look for ways out - Washington Post

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/young-south-koreans-call-their-country-hell-and-look-for-ways-out/2016/01/30/34737c06-b967-11e5-85cd-5ad59bc19432\\_story.html?sw\\_bypass=true&utm\\_term=.fe3f678cc7ad](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/young-south-koreans-call-their-country-hell-and-look-for-ways-out/2016/01/30/34737c06-b967-11e5-85cd-5ad59bc19432_story.html?sw_bypass=true&utm_term=.fe3f678cc7ad)

- Why young South Koreans struggle to be happy

<http://www.intheforefront.org/why-young-south-koreans-struggle-to-be-happy-the-ominous-intersections-of-traditional-culture-and-modern-development/>

- US military base in South Korea mired in corruption scandal

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/12/04/u-s-military-base-south-korea-mired-corruption-scandal/919333001/>

- Dozens arrested as South Korean military conducts 'gay witch-hunt'

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/06/11/asia/south-korea-lgbt-military/index.html>

- South Korea court orders party with "Pro North Korea" views to be disbanded

<http://www.dw.com/en/south-korea-court-orders-party-with-pro-north-korea-views-be-disbanded/a-18140824>

- The spy who came in from the North

<https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/world/the-spy-who-came-in-from-the-north/ar-AA5m5FS>

## Recommended books

- Korea: Division, Reunification, and U.S. Foreign Policy

<https://monthlyreview.org/product/korea/>

- Socialist Korea

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4072709-socialist-korea>

- This Must Be the Place: How the U.S. Waged Germ Warfare in the Korean War and Denied It Ever Since

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1934733768/>

- In North Korea: first eye-witness report

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/strong-anna-louise/1949/in-north-korea/index.htm>

- North Korean Journey: The Revolution Against Colonialism, 1975 (scanned book)

<https://ia601201.us.archive.org/11/items/NorthKoreanJourney/North%20Korean%20Journey.pdf>

- Modern Korea - The Socialist North, Revolutionary Perspectives in the South, and Unification, 1970 (scanned book)

- <https://ia801205.us.archive.org/33/items/ModernKoreaKimByongSik/Modern%20Korea%20Kim%20Byong%20Sik.pdf>

- Revolution and Socialist Construction in Korea - Selected Writings of Kim Il Sung

<https://archive.org/details/RevolutionSocialistConstructionKorea>

- For the Independent, Peaceful Reunification of Korea by Kim Il-Sung (scanned book)

<https://archive.org/details/ForTheIndependentPeacefulReunificationOfKorea>

- North Korea: The Struggle Against American Power by Tim Beal

<http://libgen.io/book/index.php?md5=94A5D82DAE9E30CD65FAF8C0E7EE5A9B>

- Again Korea by Wilfred Burchett

<http://www.friend.com.kp/data/201507/0116.frd.pdf>

## DPRK related films

- Four Seasons in Pyongyang (1994)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dDqgZTq1vQ>

- Our Socialist Country (1992)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1-2dju0cNM>

- They Choose China (2005)

<https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/they-chose-china/>

- An African-Americans journal inside North Korea (1994)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTi5Ma1F7zM>

- An American tourist in North Korea: Exploring the DPRK and running the Pyongyang Marathon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkN42srizJo>

- The Haircut - A North Korean adventure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BO83Ig-E8E>